

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

PR & RD Department-PS - Certain irregularities noticed in deletion of voters from Electoral roll - Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu (Presently under Suspension - Under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991-Article of Charges-Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG.VII) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.592

Dated: 03.10.2023
Read the following:

From the District Collector, Anantapuram
Rc.No.Elections/3771/2023, Dated:30.08.2023

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ORDER:

1. It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, presently working as Gazetted Instructor in Extension Training Centre (ETC), Bapatla (Under Suspension) in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991.
2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehavior in respect of which the enquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Article of Charge (Annexure - I & II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom the article of charge is proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure -III & IV).
3. Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, (Presently U/s) is directed to submit a written statement of her defense within 15 days of the receipt of this order.
4. Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, (Presently U/s) is further informed that an enquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charges that are not admitted. She should, therefore, specifically admit or deny the article of charge.
5. Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, (Presently U/s) is further informed that if she does not submit her written statement of defense on or before the date specified in Para 3 above, further action will be proceeded based on the material available.
6. The attention of Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, (Presently U/s) is invited to Rule 24 of the A.P.C.S (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further her interest in respect of matters pertaining to her service under the Government. If any representation is received on her behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings it will be presumed that Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, (Presently U/s) is aware of such representation and that it has been made at her instance and action will be taken against her for

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violation of Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of the charge memo may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

B RAJSEKHAR I A S
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, presently working as Gazetted Instructor in Extension Training Centre (ETC), Bapatla (Through the CPR, A.P.,).

The Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, A.P., Tadepalli, Guntur District with a request to serve the copies and furnish the dated acknowledgement to the Government.

Copy to:

The District Collector, Ananthapuramu and Bapatla Districts.

The GA(Elections) Dept for information.

The PR&RD (MDL.II) Dept

Sf/Sc

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//


SECTION OFFICER
M8

[Annexure to G.O.Rt.No. 592, PR&RD (VIG.VII) Dept., Dt:03.10.2023]

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT SOBHA SWAROOPA RANI, THE THEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PARISHAD, ANANTHAPURAMU, PRESENTLY WORKING AS GAZETTED INSTRUCTOR IN EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE (ETC), BAPATLA(UNDER SUSPENSION)

ARTICLE OF CHARGE

That Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, (Presently U/s) has failed to discharge her official duties and committed grave misconduct as indicated below by violating:

ARTICLE OF CHARGE-1: That Smt Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, presently working as Gazetted Instructor in Extension Training Centre (ETC), Bapatla, (Presently U/s) was working as Chief Executive officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu and functioning as ERO, 149-Uravakonda AC have deleted 1716 entries from the electoral roll of the Uravakonda Assembly constituency without following the due procedure as prescribed under commission's instructions dated: 02.08.2021, 13.11.2021, and violated Rule-19 and Rule 20 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 while acting as Electoral Registration officer of 149-Uravakonda AC and also, didn't followed the instructions issued by Election Commission vide No.23/2021-ERS Dated:2nd August, 2021 and vide No.23/2021-ERS Dated:13 September, 2021 while deleting the "dead" and "shifted" electors from the electoral roll of Uravakonda AC.

Thus, she showed gross negligence, lack of devotion to duty which constitutes misconduct on the part of the employee and violated Rule-03 of A.P.C.S (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

ARTICLE OF CHARGE-2: That Smt Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then Chief Executive officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu, presently working as Gazetted Instructor in Extension Training Centre (ETC), Bapatla, (Presently U/s) was working as Chief Executive officer, Zilla Parishad, Ananthapuramu and while performing functions as ERO, 149-Uravakonda AC has failed to pursue with field level functionaries i.e., BLOs and mandal level functionaries i.e., AEROs whether they are obtaining relevant documents with regard to deletions of voters during continuous updation of electoral roll and not followed the procedures required under Registration of Electors rules, 1960 and instructions issued from time to time by the ECI/CEO.

Thus, she showed gross negligence, lack of devotion to duty which constitutes misconduct on the part of the employee and violated Rule-03 of A.P.C.S(Conduct) Rules,1964.

B RAJSEKHAR I A S
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

T. Jagadeesh
SECTION OFFICER
M.S.

ANNEXURE-IISTATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS OF MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT SOBHA SWAROOPA RANI, THE THEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PARISHAD, ANANTHAPURAMU, PRESENTLY WORKING AS GAZETTED INSTRUCTOR IN EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE (ETC), BAPATLA(UNDER SUSPENSION)

The District Collector has reported that the Revenue Divisional Officer, Guntakal has submitted his detailed inquiry report after duly conducting the field enquiry by the constituted teams. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Guntakal has reported as Hon'ble MLA, Uravakonda Assembly Constituency in his complaint has furnished two lists viz. 4005 names & 6064 Names which are alleged to be deleted from the voters list without following due procedure. After verification, out of 4005 names list, 3910 names have been repeated in 6063 list (not 6064 as indicated in the representation) the list containing 6158 names hold good for verification and the status on number of cases of deletions in which procedure has been followed/not followed is as follows.

Mandal	Total no.of claims	No.of claims for which procedure followed	No.of claims for which procedure not followed
Uravakonda	1697	1506	191
Vidapanakal	1073	851	222
Vajrakarur	1418	889	529
Beluguppa	1027	0	1027
Kuderu	943	0	943
Total:-	6158	3246	2912

Further, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Guntakal has reported that the teams constituted with Tahsildar have conducted field enquiry with the assistance of respective Booth Level Officers by visiting door to door in respect of all the cases of deletions. The verification teams have collected the information in the prescribed format at the time of visit to the houses and obtained signatures of the family member from whom the information has been collected. The details collected at field verification for each case have been compiled and the concern Tahsildars have furnished the compiled information in a statement. The Tehsildars have reported that the signatures of the family members have been taken in respect of cases where family member is available and the signature of persons residing in the Polling Station area of the deleted persons have been taken in respect of cases where the entire family of the deleted person has been shifted (or) not traced out. The status of field verification is as follows.

A.EXPIRED/DEATH CASES:

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	No.of cases reported	No.of cases for which field enquiry completed	No.of cases found genuine deletion	No.of cases not traced out & found genuine deletions	Total cases found genuine deletions	Total cases found not genuine
1	Uravakonda	1346	1346	1247	80	1327	19
2	Vidapanakal	803	803	797	0	797	6
3	Vajrakarur	1052	1052	1029	0	1029	23
4	Beluguppa	818	818	800	14	814	4
5	Kuderu	553	553	546	2	548	5
Total		4572	4572	4419	96	4515	57

B.SHIFTED

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	No.of cases reported	No.of cases for which field enquiry completed	No.of cases found genuine deletion	No.of cases not traced out & found genuine deletions	Total cases found genuine deletions	Total cases found not genuine
1	Uravakonda	140	140	105	25	130	10
2	Vidapanakal	95	95	88	0	88	7
3	Vajrakarur	169	169	168	0	168	1
4	Beluguppa	80	80	76	0	76	4
5	Kuderu	231	231	228	0	228	3
Total		715	715	665	25	690	25

C.DUPLICATE/REPEATED

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	No.of cases reported	No.of cases for which field enquiry completed	No.of cases found genuine deletion	No.of cases not traced out & found genuine deletions	Total cases found genuine deletions	Total cases found not genuine
1	Uravakonda	162	162	146	13	159	3
2	Vidapanakal	168	168	163	0	163	5
3	Vajrakarur	179	179	171	0	171	8
4	Beluguppa	118	118	111	3	114	4
5	Kuderu	133	133	133	0	133	0
Total		760	760	724	16	740	20

D. N.A.CASES (where nature of deletion not indicated)

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	No.of cases reported	No.of cases for which field enquiry completed	No.of cases found genuine deletion	No.of cases not traced out & found genuine deletions	Total cases found genuine deletions	Total cases found not genuine
1	Uravakonda	49	49	28	13	41	8
2	Vidapanakal	7	7	6	0	6	1
3	Vajrakarur	18	18	18	0	18	0
4	Beluguppa	11	11	11	0	11	0
5	Kuderu	26	26	26	0	26	0
Total		111	111	89	16	102	9

The category wise cases found genuine and not genuine after field enquiry is shown under:

Sl. No.	Category of deletion	Name of the Mandal	No.of cases reported	No.of cases found genuine deletion after field enquiry	<u>No.of cases found not genuine after field enquiry</u>
1	Expired/ Death	Uravakonda	1346	1327	19
		Vidapanakal	803	797	6
		Vajrakarur	1052	1029	23
		Beluguppa	818	814	4
		Kuderu	553	548	5
Total:-			4572	4515	57
2	Shifted	Uravakonda	140	130	10

		Vidapanakal	95	88	7
		Vajrakarur	169	168	1
		Beluguppa	80	76	4
		Kuderu	231	228	3
		Total:-	715	690	25
3	Duplicate/ Repeated	Uravakonda	162	159	3
		Vidapanakal	168	163	5
		Vajrakarur	179	171	8
		Beluguppa	118	114	4
		Kuderu	133	133	0
		Total:-	760	740	20
4	N.A. cases (where nature of deletion not indicated)	Uravakonda	49	41	8
		Vidapanakal	7	6	1
		Vajrakarur	18	18	0
		Beluguppa	11	11	0
		Kuderu	26	26	0
		Total:-	111	102	9
		GRAND TOTAL:-	6158	6047	<u>111</u>

The Revenue Divisional Officer, Guntakal has reported that out of 6158 deletions, 6047 deletions are found genuine and that remaining 111 cases are found mistakenly deleted. The Tahsildars concerned have already processed the action in taking Form-6 claims in respect of wrong deletions to enrol them as Voters.

Further, when the Chief Electoral Officer, A.P., has instructed it is reported that the details of EROs and AEROs worked in 149-Uravakonda Assembly Constituency during the period of deletion of voters where procedure has not been followed while effecting the deletions.

Sl.No.	Mandal	Tahsildars & AEROs who worked during the period of deletion of voters (as ascertained from the respective Tahsildar's Office)	EROs worked during the period of deletion
1	Vidapanakal	1. Sri G.Nataraju (28.08.2020 to 30.09.2020) 2. Sri P.Rajak Vali (01.10.2020 to 05.07.2022) Sri S.P.Sreenivasulu	1.Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, CEO, ZP, Anantapur (06.09.2017 to 30.04.21) 2. Sri K.Bhaskar Reddy, CEO,ZP, Anantapur. (24.06.2021 to till date)
2	Vajrakarur	(16.09.2019 to 04.07.2022)	
3	Uravakonda	1.Srig.Madhusudhan (02.07.2020 to 05.10.2020) 2. Sri C.Munegala (06.10.2020 to 10.07.2022)	
4	Beluguppa	Smt. S.Sumathi (11.07.2019 to 30.06.2022)	

5	Kuderu	1.Sri S.Nagaraju	
		(01.01.2020 to 31.03.2021)	
		2. Sri S.Sreenivasulu	
		(17.07.2021 to 31.12.2021)	

The No. of deletions for which procedure not followed under the working of EROs are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the ERO	Period worked as ERO	Total No. of deletions made	No. of deletions for which procedure Not Followed
1	Smt. Shoba Swaroopa Rani, CEO., ZP., Ananthapuramu	06.09.2017 to 30.04.2021	4081	1716

Further submitted the following 5 sample records showing that the procedure has not been followed by the respective Electoral Registration Officers are submitted herewith

Sl.No	Form No	Name of the ERO covered during the period
1	EVO728014814	Smt.Sobha Swaroopa Rani, the then CEO,ZP.
2	EFC909398252	Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then CEO,ZP.
3	ECO829000861	Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then CEO,ZP.
4	ERV038009906	Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then CEO,ZP.
5	ENM974734678	Smt. Shobha Swaroopa Rani, the then CEO,ZP.

By the above act, she violated Rule-19 and Rule 20 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 while acting as Electoral Registration officer of 149-Uravakonda AC and also, didn't followed the instructions issued by Election Commission vide No.23/2021-ERS Dated:2nd August, 2021 and vide No.23/2021-ERS Dated:13 September, 2021 while deleting the "dead" and "shifted" electors from the electoral roll of Uravakonda AC and also failed to pursue with field level functionaries. she showed gross negligence, lack of devotion duty, which constitutes misconduct on the part of employee and violated Rule-3 of A.P.C.S (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Hence the charge.

B RAJSEKHAR I A S
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

T. Nagadish
SECTION OFFICER
M.8

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS ON THE BASIS OF WHICH THE ARTICLE OF CHERGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT SOBHA SWAROOPA RANI, THE THEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PARISHAD, ANANTHAPURAMU, PRESENTLY WORKING AS GAZETTED INSTRUCTOR IN EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE (ETC), BAPATLA(UNDER SUSPENSION)

1. Lr.Rc.No.Elections/3771/2023, Dt:03.08.2023 of District Collector, Ananthapuramu.
2. Rc.No.C/379/2023, Dt:29.04.2023 & 16.06.2023 of Revenue Divisional Officer, Guntakal.
3. ECI Lr.No.39/AP/SOU3/2022, dt.09.08.2023.

B RAJSEKHAR I A S
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT


SECTION OFFICER
M.S.

ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHOM BY THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SMT SOBHA SWAROOPA RANI, THE THEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PARISHAD, ANANTHAPURAMU, PRESENTLY WORKING AS GAZETTED INSTRUCTOR IN EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE (ETC), BAPATLA(UNDER SUSPENSION).

-NIL-

B RAJSEKHAR I A S
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT


SECTION OFFICER
M.S.